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Joseph Gross, illuminated letters, foliated capitals; date, April 20, 1830; double tulips in foliate on yellow ground. D, Title page to manuscript hymn book, name Sarah Wismer; foliated capitals, conventional flowers on heavy stalks; date 1827; colors red, yellow, brown and blue. E, Title page to ditto; name, Elizabeth Nesch (Neschin), with words Dieses Sing-Noten Buchlein Gehoret Mir; Sing Schuler In Der Bedminster Schule; Geschrieben September 6—ten im Jahr 1799, with three tulips and several colors. Other examples are within easy

#### REMARKABLE HAILSTONES.

ABOUT 5 o'clock in the afternoon of August 10th I was at Manassas depot, in Prince William County, Va., near the famous battlefield, waiting for a train. There was some pretty severe thunder and lightning for a half hour or so, and then came a heavy shower of rain, during which there was the most remarkable fall of hail I have ever witnessed. I hurried out in the rain to examine the stones and picked up several. These were nearly square flattish blocks, say from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 inch in length and

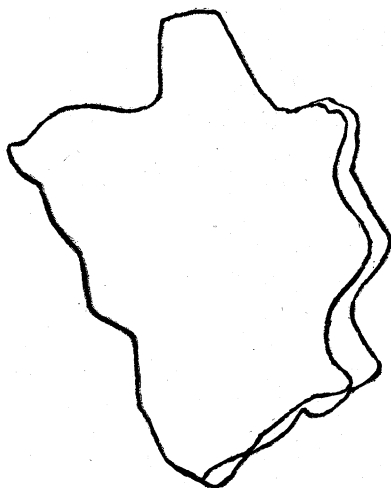


FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.

Outline of Hailstones that fell at Manassas, Va., August 10, 1897.

reach of the writer. And it has appeared evident that the art thus preserved by Mennonites in a remote part of Bucks County until about 1850, and represented by the old paint boxes in possession of the Historical Society, is a survival in America of the mediæval art of manuscript illumination. Much more remains to be said upon this subject which reveals the early relation of Germany to the United States in one of its most interesting aspects.

HENRY C. MERCER.

INDIAN HOUSE, August 30, 1897.

breadth, and from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch in thickness. They suggested, by both shape and size, the ordinary 'chocolate caramels,' of the confectioner. There were some 8 or 10 persons, I think, in the station house with me, and several of these, observing my interest and enthusiasm, began to pick up the larger stones and bring them in to me and to my friend, Professor Hargrove, of Luray, Va. Soon larger and larger ones were thus collected, and I sought for means of measuring or weighing them. No rule or scales could be found, and

so we set ourselves, several of us, conjointly and carefully to estimate the dimensions. I recorded at the time one as being, honestly estimated, '2 inches long,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch thick,' these being rather the average than the extreme dimensions.

It then occurred to me to make an outline drawing of the largest by laying it flat upon a page of my pocket memorandum and carefully running a pencil around it. I secured, in this way, a rather rough but fairly accurate outline of two. These outlines have been exactly copied (including some lines due to a slipping of the block or to a different inclination of the pencil) and are given in the accompanying cuts. The extreme lengths of these will be found to be, respectively, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  and 3 inches; their extreme breadths about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  and 2 inches. The thickness of No. 1 was recorded at the time as being by estimate  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch; that of No. 2 as being one inch. I estimate their volumes as about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cubic inches for No. 1 and nearly 3 cubic inches for No. 2. The drawing of No. 2 was done more hastily, as just in the midst of it my train rushed in and I had to leave. But I took my trophy with me, and, with perhaps pardonable enthusiasm, paraded it through the cars, and, exhibiting it to the passengers, asked expressions of opinions from them as to its size relatively to that of a popular object of comparison, a guinea egg. Perhaps 20 or 30 passengers agreed, without dissent, that it was as large or larger. Some said, 'It is as large as a hen's egg;' all agreed, also, that they had never seen so large a hailstone before. Upon breaking it to pieces, I found a sort of nucleus, of somewhat less transparent ice at the center, but observed no concentric layers or other marked structure of any kind; it was quite solid and tolerably transparent throughout. Both of these stones were characterized by blunt points or projections, as shown in the figures; and the sides also, while flat in the main, were uneven with low, rounded elevations and depressions of the same sort, the general thickness being fairly uniform.

I think that very few of these stones or blocks fell. Perhaps they would have been a yard or two apart as they lay on the ground. I think it likely also that the storm of hail was

of brief duration, say 10 or 15 minutes, and that it embraced a very limited area.

It was, perhaps, about over when I took the train, as I infer from the fact that I have seen no account of it in the papers; and I found at the next station, only 5 miles off, that the road was dry and dusty.

I regret exceedingly that no more accurate observations seem to have been made of what must have been a most notable hailstorm, and I diffidently submit my own crude and imperfect account in the hope that thereby something further may be elicited in regard to it.

CHAS. H. WINSTON.

RICHMOND COLLEGE, VA.,

August 25, 1897.

#### THE DEATH OF VICTOR MEYER.

MANY years will pass before Heidelberg entirely recovers from the shock produced by the recent sudden death of Victor Meyer. That so great a man should depart in such a way, and in the prime of his life, seems to be the regret of all who knew his accomplishments.

The work of the semester was practically at an end and the majority of the students had left for the long vacation. It had been a very busy and fruitful period for the department. Every desk had been taken and many applicants turned away. Each student seemed proud of the privilege to work under such distinguished professors, chief among whom was Victor Meyer. His masterly leadership, scholarly attainments and genial manner were the constant inspiration of every one. On the 5th of August he had drawn to a close his annual course of lectures on experimental chemistry. After lingering for a moment to discuss the composition and decay of organic matter, and thanking his listeners for their faithfulness, he left the hall amid deafening and prolonged applause.

Returning from a social gathering rather late Saturday evening, he retired to his room, with the request that he be not disturbed on the following morning. When the door was forced open at noon by the anxious family he had already been dead some time, and the cyanide bottle by the bedside told the story.

When it was first reported that the beloved teacher had died by his own hand, not even his